



NATIONAL PARK

QUEENSLAND



The National Park

— of —

Queensland

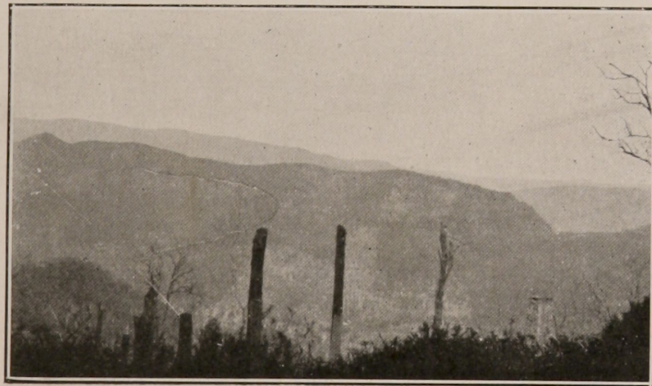
Comprising Lamington and Roberts Plateaux
(South Queensland).



The National Park of Queensland

THE remarkable area which represents what is to be henceforth the great National Park of Queensland commands scenery which, in vast expanse and amazing variety, is unparalleled in Australia, or probably in any of the recognised scenic show-places of the world.

When established as a tourist resort, with all the necessary artificial advantages, it will assuredly be the show park of the Commonwealth, recognising no rivals, attracting tourists from all parts of Australia, and forming a glorious scenic picture



A GLIMPSE OF ROBERTS PLATEAU FROM SPRINGBROOK.

which every foreign visitor must see if he desires to view the masterpiece in Nature's magnificent Art Gallery in Australia. The time is not far off when the Australian or foreign tourist who has not seen Queensland's National Park will be regarded as one whose tourist education is deficient in one essential subject.

There is no exaggeration here, because there is no room for extravagant description. Byron said no picture or description can give you an idea of the ocean, and the most eloquent word-painting would leave you no room for disappointment in Queensland's National Park, when viewing the scenic splendours of the reality.

It seems well to preface the description by a brief historical reference.

We may be fairly certain that the Great Dividing McPherson Range, between Queensland and New South Wales, was first seen by white men in 1770 when Captain Cook came along the east coast of Australia. We can picture the immortal navigator, with his telescope scanning the grim dark rock headland of Cape Byron, and looking far beyond on the towering



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peak of Mount Warning and the mighty jungle-covered crests and tremendous precipices of what is now the McPherson Range. But he named only Cape Byron, Mount Warning, and Point Danger, until he came to Point Lookout, Moreton Bay, Cape Moreton, Glass House Bay, and the Glass House Mountains.

Then thirty years afterwards came Flinders, who named "High Peak," the present Mount Flinders, fourteen miles from Ipswich.

In 1827 Captain Logan, the third Commandant at the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement, started a station at Limestone, the present Ipswich, and in that year went across by Mount Flinders to the head of the Logan River, which he discovered and named the "Darling," and followed down to where Beenleigh is to-day, and thence to Brisbane.

In June, 1828, the famous botanist, Allan Cunningham, came to Brisbane in the "Lucy Ann," accompanied by Fraser, the Colonial Botanist, who came to start and lay off the Brisbane Botanic Gardens. These two men, and Captain Logan, started for a tour up the Logan River (then the Darling), the objective being the Gap which Cunningham had seen in the previous year from the Darling Downs. Very interesting is the account of that journey, the plains with many emus, the grass-covered blacks' camps, the beautiful aboriginal fishing-nets, the wild women roasting beans and the roots of cunjie-boy, the cedar scrubs full of turkeys and wongas, and the cold mornings with the thermometer at freezing point, as they crossed the Logan on 1st August. In the previous year

Logan had evidently mistaken Mount Lindesay or Barney for Mount Warning, which was not visible from any point in his journey without climbing one of the mountains.



GIANT BLUE GUMS; IN THE DISTANCE, MOUNT WIDGEE, ON THE BORDER OF NATIONAL PARK.

On 3rd August, 1828, the site of the great Queensland National Park comes for the first time into the page of history, when Cunningham's journal records that "A range, distant scarcely ten miles, and stretching from east by north to south-east, of elevated bold appearance, was named McPherson's Range, in compliment to Major McPherson, of the 39th Regiment, while the south extreme, a very bluff head and a round hummock, were called 'Coke' and 'Burrough.'"

The McPherson Range, or the "McPherson's Range" of Cunningham, is the most remarkable range in Australia. It forms portion of the southern boundary of the National Park. On the eastern end it finally tapers down into low spurs,

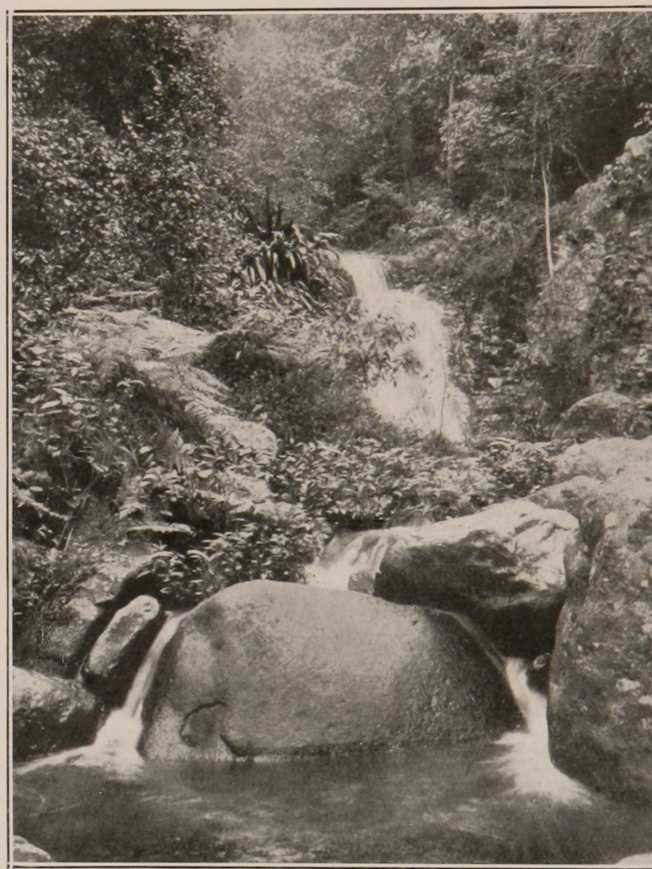


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connected or disconnected, to Currumbin Creek and near the mouth of the Tweed. On the heads of Currumbin, Tallebudgera, and Nerang Creeks, it rises abruptly into tremendous precipices out of dense scrub, and crowned by jungle-clad heights over 3,000 feet. The precipices are very clearly displayed to people passing in ships along the coast. The actual range starts about three miles from the sea, near Currumbin, and rises gradually along a series of peaks and dome-shaped crests and intervening ravines, across the heads of Currumbin, Tallebudgera, and Nerang Creeks, and the Coomera in Queensland, and Piccabeen, Coraki, Terranora, and a score of other creeks running into the Tweed. There are about seventeen conspicuous mountains along the Range, and all already named, before reaching Mount Merino, which is about twenty-three miles in a straight line from Point Danger. The range runs in a general direction from east to south-west until it terminates at Mount Lindesay at the far end, about fifty-two miles in a direct line from Point Danger. There is a great curve with a long dip of about two miles between Mount Merino and the Richmond Gap, a distance of about eighteen miles. On the Queensland side the Albert River and Christmas Creek rise in that curve, and from the centre of the curve on the New South Wales side a range runs away south-east and divides the waters of the Richmond and Tweed Rivers.

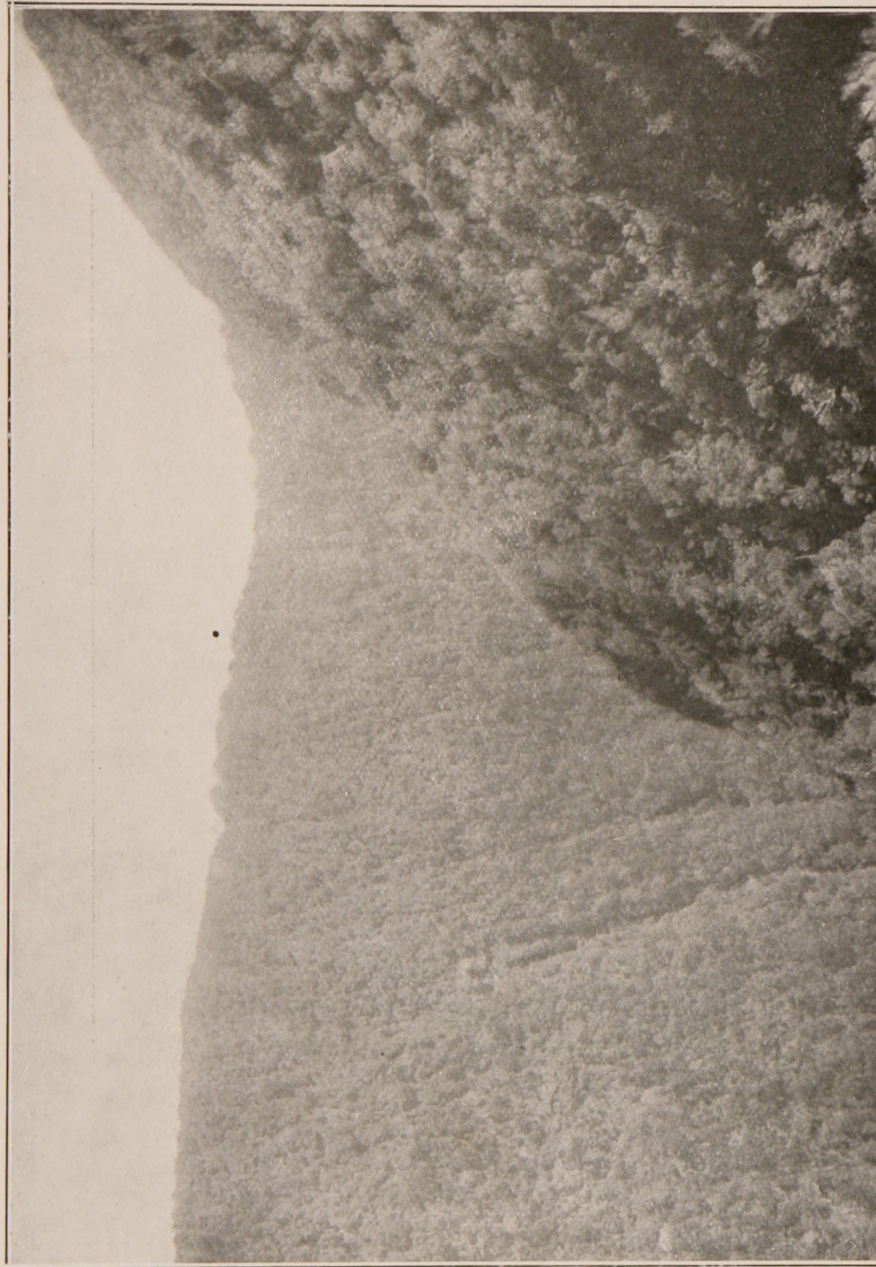
The Tweed is a very short river, the whole length of the valley from the mouth to the watershed in the Dividing Range, and the slopes of the McPherson Range, being only about thirty-five miles, with a width of from twelve to twenty miles. The face of McPherson Range, looking down on the Tweed,

consists chiefly of great precipices, vast unscalable ramparts of bare rock divided by short, very steep slopes covered with dense



THE GRANITE BED OF MORAN'S CREEK, ROBERTS
PLATEAU.

jungle. That vast mountain wall, with its tremendous cliffs, dark, deep ravines, and magnificent vegetation, is the boundary



I. ECHO GORGE FROM ECHO POINT.

2. MCPHERSON RANGE FROM NATIONAL PARK.

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between the States. The whole Range is practically in Queensland territory. From the verge of that Cyclopean wall of the Lamington National Park you look down into New South Wales, and behind you, towards the north, stretching away into Queensland, are great radiating spurs from 3,000 to 3,800 feet in height, six or seven miles in length, covered by dense and splendid jungle, and mostly terminating in sheer cliffs or projecting points forming enormous balconies of dark-grey rock, from whence you look out with unrestricted view upon a magnificent panorama of hills and valleys, of majestic mountains, of picturesque ranges, spires, domes, obelisks, and tabletops, away to the Main Range and the Flinders Peaks, while far north, distant about 100 miles, are clearly seen the fantastic domes and cones of the Glass House Mountains. Those long spurs are separated by enormous ravines, 2,000 to 3,000 feet in depth, and down each of them flows a clear stream of pure cold water, with cascades and cataracts and sheer falls from 20 to 400 feet. From these ravines, heading in the crest of the range, flow the waters of Currumbin and Tallebudgera Creeks, and Nerang and the Coomera Rivers, direct to the sea; while Canungra, Stockyard, Moran, Christmas, Waterfall, and Running Creeks run into the Albert, and also the two branches of the Albert itself. From base to apex those magnificent ravines are clothed in the same luxuriant mantle of gorgeous scrub as the summit. There is not an acre of bare ground on the whole area of the Park from end to end and side to side. There is one vast unbroken jungle from the head of Currumbin to the source of the Richmond River near Mount Lindesay.

On both sides of the Range, on the front facing New South

Wales, and on the ends of the spurs shooting out into Queensland, Nature has erected a number of perfect lookout stations 3,000 to 4,000 feet in height, and half a dozen others could be easily created by one day's work of a man with an axe.



CATARACTS AND POOL ALONG MORAN'S CREEK
GORGE, ROBERTS PLATEAU.



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And each lookout has its own area of scenery. From one point you can see the white shores of Stradbroke Island, and from another all the open ocean and the coast-line from Point Danger to south of Cape Byron. Beneath you on the south side there lies the beautiful and picturesque fertile valley of the Tweed, every part spread out as a scenic map before you from Point Danger to the Dividing Range and dark cliffs of the McPherson. That Dividing Range is itself a grand series of splendid mountains from whose summits you would look south into the valley of the Richmond, and north across all the Tweed Valley to the ocean beyond. Always in front towers the great peak of Cook's Mount Warning, rising in solitary grandeur to a height of 3,800 feet, the "Waloombin" of the aboriginals. It stands alone eight miles in a direct line from the nearest point of the Richmond Dividing Range, and ten miles from the McPherson Range. Its nearest companion is "Brummie's Lookout," a cone of 2,000 feet. The highest point in the divide is 3,350 feet, and the remarkable "Pinnacle" has a height of 2,900 feet.

A main track from end to end of the great National Park of Queensland will run along the crest of the Range within sight of the Tweed Valley for the whole distance, with tracks running at right angles along the crest of each of the great spurs projecting into Queensland. These tracks would terminate on the magnificent lookouts on the end of each spur, commanding a view of Queensland for a hundred miles. A walk or ride from these points across from five to seven miles, and you are on the south front of the McPherson Range, with a splendid view far out across the Tweed Valley to the ocean and the Dividing Range.

There is an amazing uniformity in height along the top of the McPherson, and out on the crests and ends of the spurs which divide the waters flowing to Queensland, from 3,000 to 3,600 feet, with two or three summits rising to over 4,000 feet, one of the highest being on the heads of the Albert River and Christmas Creek.

The Vegetation.

The scrub with which the whole Lamington National Park is covered, from the highest summits to the deepest ravines, is quite as dense and lofty and tropical in its luxuriance as that on the Atherton Tableland or anywhere else in North Queensland. Very remarkable is the prevalence everywhere, especially on the summit, of splendid tree-ferns up to thirty and forty feet in height, with wide, spreading, umbrageous tops. Many of the larger hardwoods are conspicuous by their tremendous flanges, up to eight or ten feet in height, and extending ten or fifteen feet from the tree. These immense buttresses apparently are intended by Nature to stay the trees against the gales which must sweep across those mountain tops occasionally with great violence. Many trees throw out flanges in all the coastal scrubs of Queensland, north to Cape York, but not on such a general and extensive scale as those of the National Park. Giant flame-trees grow there up to 250 feet in height with a diameter of five or six feet—a size quite unknown elsewhere. Conspicuous everywhere are the beautiful mosses which clothe the roots and flanges of so many of the older trees, and also grow along the branches.

The streams along all the ravines, from their sources in the crest of the range to where they emerge from the gorges at



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the foot of the mountains, are bordered and bowered by vegetation of exquisite beauty; ferns and lilies, staghorn, elk-horn, and bird-nest ferns, glorious tree-ferns, flowering creepers and beautiful shrubs, and dainty mosses on the stones and trees; and behind and over all, extending in magnificent array 500 or 1,000 feet above, clothing the great slopes to the summit, rises the dark majestic scrub above whose infinitely varied foliage tower the giant dark feather-crested pines, through whose branches the spectral winds play, as on Nature's Æolian harps, the solemn music that the birds alone heard in the ancestral pines, back in the far-off morning of the world. And the mornings and the evenings along those ravines are musical with the sweet voices of many feathered singers, for there, too, melodious birds sing madrigals to each other, and to the ripple and murmur of the waters and the rush of the cataract, the diapason of the greater vertical falls, or the subdued hush of the silvery cascade stealing down the face of the grey rocks into the depths bordered on both sides in emerald green.

Most remarkable of all the trees in these great scrub-covered ranges is one known botanically as *Fagus Moorei*, so named by Baron Von Mueller in honour of Director Moore of the Sydney Botanic Gardens. It is one of the oldest and most remarkable trees in the world, gradually decaying outward from the interior, creating new wood and new roots, and so spreading outward until it acquires a gigantic size, some of them being thirty or forty feet in diameter. One stands and gazes on this amazing tree, with the emotions suggested by contemplation of the ruins of the Parthenon, or the Coliseum or Baalbec, or the Pyramids. In truth you are gazing at the ruins of trees in the

vigour of their youth when Solomon was building his Temple, or the Egyptians were laying the foundations of Cheops and Cyphrenes.

Old beyond the range of our imagination are those great and mysterious Colossi of the primeval forest, throned in the surrounding solitudes of those grand old mountains that have stood there defying the thunder and the lightnings, and the stormy winds, for countless ages before Man appeared upon



SCRUB SCENE, CHRISTMAS CREEK.

Earth. They are old and hoary and venerable, and their roots and trunks are draped in a mourning costume of dark-green mosses that in the older trees extend far out along the branches. And the bases are covered by the decay of many centuries, dark, gloomy, eerie, uncanny-looking, caverned recesses, moist with the grave damps, where no light penetrates, fit habitations only for the dingo, the scrub rat, the native cat, and the carpet snake. Some great trees have evolved a circle of others, forming a family group, all old and their hearts decaying, but the tops crowned with bright-green foliage. Before looking up at that umbrageous top it is hard to realise that the tree is alive.



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Around his base are the immense flanging roots twisted and gnarled, staying him against the storms, their ends going far down beneath the soil into the crevices of the primeval rocks.

In some remote past that ancient beech was probably companioned only by the *Macrozamia*s and the *Xanthorrhæa*s which the newer trees, represented by the upstart scrub of to-day, gradually pushed out on the edges of the precipices, the only places they are seen now on top of the range. Along the valleys of the Logan and Albert are still hundreds of grand old grass-trees (*Xanthorrhæa*), which grow only in open forest.

The whole of the McPherson summit possesses a wonderful wealth of ferns, orchids, mosses, and lichens, there probably being a hundred varieties of ferns ranging from minute forms on the rocks and tree-trunks up to the majestic tree-ferns forty feet in height. There must be new plants, new birds, animals, reptiles, and insects, in that so-far vast uncollected area from the head of Currumbin to Mount Lindesay, extending over at least 300 square miles of unbroken scrub. Conspicuous in all parts are the great fig-trees in all stages of evolution, from the tiny plant, just starting in the fork or the hollow of some tree, up to specimens thirty feet in diameter. The seeds of the figs do not germinate in the ground, as they require the earth formed by decayed wood. A bird drops the seeds in the fork or hollow of a tree at any height up to 50 or 100 feet, and forthwith they proceed to germinate until the plant is strong enough to throw out very fine filamental roots, which gradually descend and attach themselves to the ground, and rapidly increase in size, until they, too, project roots from both sides, and others descend from the parent plant

on all sides of the tree until it is entirely enclosed by these serpentine tendrils and finally killed and obliterated, so that every fig-tree in the scrubs has the dead body of another tree in its interior, but all the visible green trunk is pure, soft, *Ficus* wood. The fig-tree is a true parasite, and the blood-sucking vampire of the scrubs.



A CROSSING ON CHRISTMAS CREEK, NEAR LAMINGTON.

Prominent Trees of the Park.

There is a great wealth of vegetation on the whole of the National Park, and it is fairly certain that there are many new species yet to be collected. It is only necessary here to give the reader a brief list of the more prominent trees, which are known by their vernacular names, as the general public have naturally not much interest in a list of scientific names whose meanings are only familiar to the botanist.



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The most remarkable tree is the Antarctic beech (*Fagus Moorei*, Order Cupuliferæ), fully described elsewhere, and the hoop pine (*Araucaria Cunninghamii*), a stately and majestic tree growing all over the Park and down the sloping spurs on the Queensland side; two species of rosewood, "Dysoxylon," a native tamarind (*Diploglottis Cunninghamii*), a very large tree; two very fine timbers, genus "Weinmannia," known to the timber-getters as "marara" and "red carrabeen."

A silky oak of the "Orites" species, and one, an "Embothrium," neither being the ordinary silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*). The red cedar (*Cedrela Toona*) is rather rare on the summit of the McPherson Range, and there do not appear to be any large or old trees such as were plentiful in the scrubs in the valley of the Tweed on one side and those of the Albert and Logan on the other. A satinwood ("Zanthoxylum") is common, and the red scrub cherry, one of the "Eugenias."

The stinging tree is common, and the species *Laportea gigas* grows to five feet in diameter and seventy to eighty feet in height, a soft spongy wood which dries as light as cork. There are two smaller species of "gigas."

One tree, a "Stenocarpus," bears a splendid red flower known as the "wheel of fire," and the famous flame-tree grows there to a size unknown elsewhere, some of them six or seven feet in diameter and 200 feet in height. There, too, is one of the beefwoods, a "Stenocarpus," and three or four varieties of "Acacia."

The Eucalyptus species are fairly represented by the spotted gum ("maculata"), the grey gum ("propinqua"), the

mountain box ("Banksia"), the white stringybark ("eugenioides"), the yellow stringybark ("acmenioides"), the tallow-wood ("microcorys"), and the forest oak (*Casuarina torulosa*). There, too, is the crow's ash (a "Flindersia"), the stavewood ("Tarrietia"), and the wood known as "maiden's blush" ("Sloanea"). The Eucalypts also include the black ironbark ("siderophloia"), the blue gum ("tereticornis"), and the grey gum ("saligna").



A CLEARING ON ROBERTS PLATEAU, SHOWING
REILLY'S HUT.

The apple tree (*Angophora subvelutina*) is also one of the Park trees, and the Brisbane box (*Tristania conferta*). The scrub plum ("Sideroxylon") is common, and the true silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*). There is the scrub bloodwood (*Baloghia lucida*), two Casuarinas ("suberosa" and "torulosa").



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Among the palms are the piccabeen and walking-stick palms (*Archontophoenix Cunninghamii* and *Bacularia monostachya*), also the small lawyer-cane (*Calamus Muelleri*).

Among the ferns at least twenty-five varieties have already been collected, and of those, there are three—the bird's-nest, elkhorn, and staghorn ferns—in incredible numbers, some single trees carrying from ten to thirty ferns, especially along the margin of the creeks. The bird's-nest is *Asplenium nidus*, the elkhorn is *Platycerium alcicorne*, and the staghorn is *P. grande*. On the patches of forest on the borders of the precipices and down the forest slopes on the Queensland side are fine specimens of "Xanthorrhæa" (the grass tree), including *X. arborea* and four other varieties of the order "Juncaceæ."

The whole Park, whose extensive flora is yet but little known, is a magnificent field for the botanical collector, who has the prospect of many new plants before him.

The Scenery.

Many are the ways which lead to the National Park, all interesting, all picturesque, and all beautiful. The visitor can go up the valley of Canungra Creek, rising ever higher in the great ravine until he sights the Pyramid Rock, beyond which, and far up the side of the mountains, in an ever-narrowing gorge, is a series of beautiful waterfalls where ideal shower baths will rejuvenate after the steepest climb on the hottest day. Practically the same description applies to all the streams

emerging from the Range, from Currumbin to Running Creek. They come out of tremendous ravines with sides from 1,000 to 3,500 feet in height densely clothed in luxuriant scrub, the apex of the ravines far up on the crest of the McPherson Range.



BRIDAL VEIL FALLS, MORAN'S CREEK, ROBERTS
PLATEAU.



MORAN'S CREEK, OVERLOOKING MORAN'S GORGE.

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Wide and varied is the choice of routes from which the tourist may select, and there will be more to choose from in the future. He will be able to go up either branch of the Albert, Stockyard, and Moran's Creek, Canungra and Cainbible Creeks, both branches of Christmas Creek and Widgee Creek, Waterfall Creek, and both branches of Running Creek, and in each case through most fascinating scenery. Here are twelve running streams of pure cold water—Christmas Creek with sufficient volume to supply Brisbane—and each running over smooth, moss-covered stones bordered by splendid vegetation in continuous small cascades until the entrance to the Range, the ravines gradually contracting until the great scrub-covered slopes rise above you and the tremendous precipices tower overhead on both sides until you look into where the streams are coming out of the vast ravines down their long staircase of cataracts and cascades and glorious falls, emerging on the edge of the cliff from some deep rockpool and descending in solid column or feathery spray into another pool, cut out of the solid rock by the descending water in the long wear and waste of ages, when there was no human eye or ear to see or hear. In the vast background, beyond the ravines, rise the mighty jungle-clad mountains of the McPherson Range, to which we may say with Coleridge to Mont Blanc—

“Who sank thy sunless pillars deep in earth?
Who filled thy countenance with rosy light?
Who made thee parent of perpetual streams?”

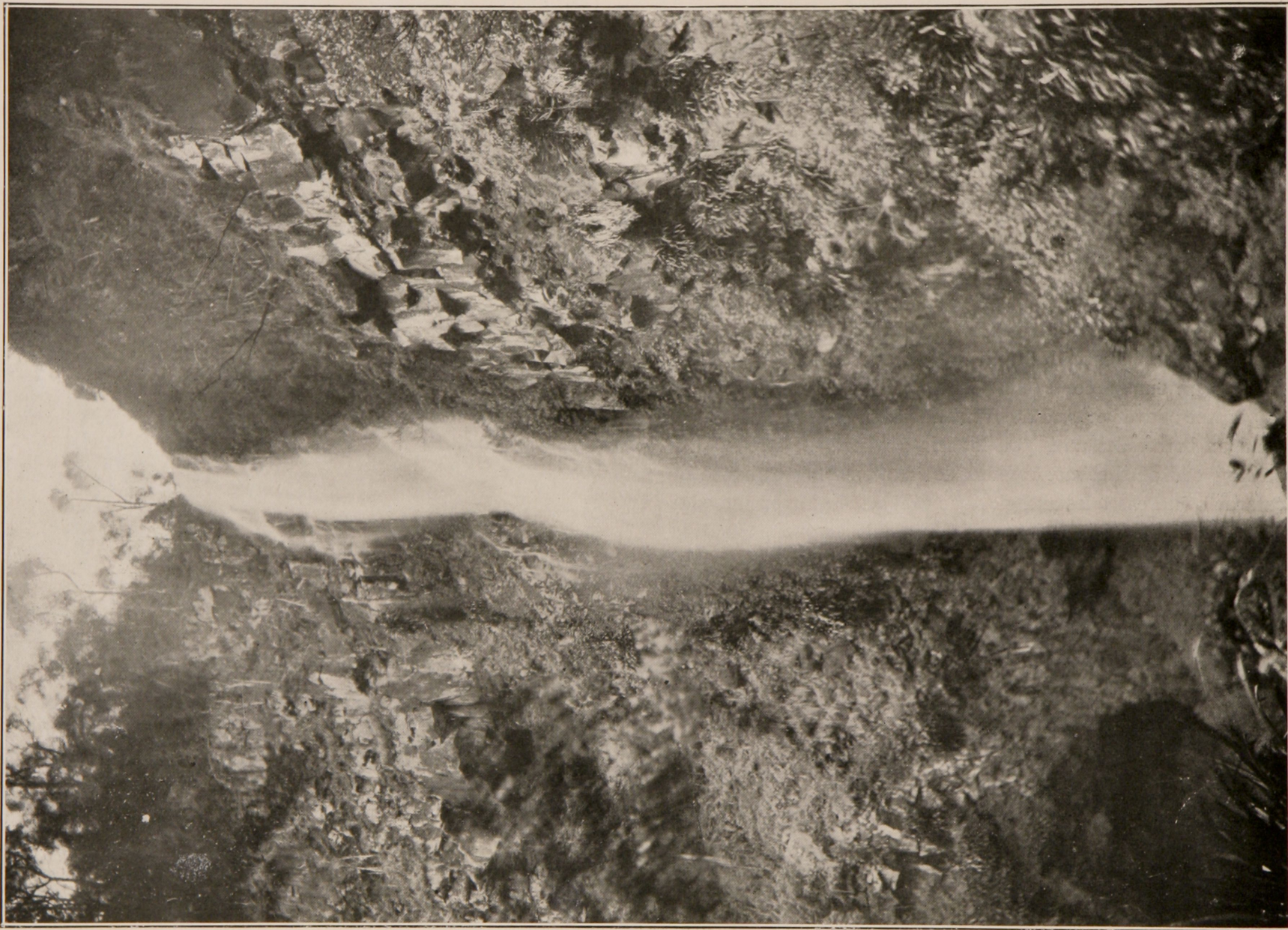
And in approaching the Range from any point on the Queensland side, when you enter the ravines, you are confronted by enormous rampart-like precipices frowning down on you as the

termini of the great jungle-covered spurs, vast vantage points on which the imagination pictures some primeval giant race, some Titanic warriors with great catapults hurling tremendous javelins on a foe in the valleys, or rolling huge rocks on an enemy scaling the slopes.



THE BED OF RUNNING CREEK, LAMINGTON PLATEAU.

Very remarkable is a long, narrow, cliff-sided and cliff-fronted spur projecting a quarter of a mile from the spur terminating between the first branch of the Albert River and Moran's Creek, and to be known henceforth as “Hunter's Lookout.” On one side you look down into and up the magnificent valley of the Albert, and see the thin silver line of the stream like a shining thread coming winding down along the bottom of the ravine, flanked on each side by the splendid wedge-shaped slopes rising to 3,000 feet. On the other side you look down into the beautiful ravine of Moran's Creek with a perfect view of the glorious falls descending sheer down the



LAMINGTON FALLS (200 FEET), HEAD OF RUNNING CREEK, LAMINGTON PLATEAU.

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vertical precipice of 300 feet into that picturesque ravine curving away into the Albert Valley, bordered by fascinating vegetation of many shades of green, an Iris occasionally above the cataract, like that over Byron's Velino—

“Resembling 'mid the torture of the scene
Hope watching Madness with unalterable mien.”

Far out from that cliff-faced point you look beyond over a radius of 100 miles north and west, to the Glass Houses and Mounts Samson and Glorious, across all the intervening country, and west and north-west and south-west across an immense, far-spreading amphitheatre of hills and valleys, of lofty mountains, weird rock pinnacles, of belts of dark scrub and sun-illuminated green slopes, of the winding courses of many streams, a scene as if some vast primeval ocean had been suddenly upheaved in mad and turbulent waves of all fantastic shapes, and suddenly transformed by some almighty hand into eternal earth and rocks, the trough of the waves lying there as the green valleys of to-day, and the great mountains as the highest points of the tempestuous surge.

Assuredly on that once wild spot the “old Earthquake Demon nursed her young ruin.” In those days the volcano and the earthquake were moulding the surface of the earth, spreading out the valleys, grading the ridges and the undulations, shaking the hills into shape, and building the great mountains firmly on their dark foundations.

Conspicuous from all parts on the Queensland side is the remarkable Mount Lindesay towering on the skyline in splendid isolation, with his vast, flat-topped, circular crown of grey rock forming on all sides a sheer precipice of 600 feet. Dr. Lang

passed it on his way from Unumgar to Brisbane in 1846, and in his work on “Queensland” he compares it with “the famous Prussian fortress of Ehrenbreitenstein on the Rhine, or Dumbarton or Edinburgh Castle in Scotland”; but surely those are insignificant in comparison with that magnificent Nature's fortress of over 4,000 feet, with the dark scrubs around the base musical with the voices of a thousand bell-birds. The first white men who claimed to have reached the summit were one of the Murray-Priors of Maroon Station, and a gentleman named Pears, in after years a police magistrate at Warwick. Then Borchgrevinck, the Arctic explorer, and a son of W. V. Brown, M.L.C., made similar claims. The blacks at Unumgar told Dr. Lang that two of their people had been on top, but a bush fire had since burned the vines by which they had ascended a difficult part. The aboriginal name was “Chalgambooin,” with accent on “gam.”

Five miles from Lindesay, on the head of the Logan, there towers the summit of Mount Barney to a height of 4,300 feet; and five miles beyond Barney is Mount Maroon, one of the aboriginal names of the iguana. Barney was known to them as “Boojaragoom.” On the range dividing Teviot Brook, a tributary of the Logan, from Warrill Creek (which runs into the Bremer) you see Mounts Moon, Alford, and French, with Mount Neilson, 2,650 feet, on the head of Reynolds Creek, which runs into Warrill Creek. In the Main Range, dividing the eastern and western waters, are Wilson's Peak, Mount Huntley (4,200 feet), and Spicer's Peak; three miles from which are Mounts Mitchell and Cordeaux, named by Cunningham, and guarding the famous “Cunningham's Gap,” which he had seen from the summit of Mount Sturt (Moonganmilly),



1. VIEW OF MOUNT LINDESAY FROM LAMINGTON PLATEAU.
(P. 24)

2. GUM-TREE CARBUNCLES AT HILLVIEW, NEAR LAMINGTON.
3, 4. VIEWS OF MOUNT BUCHANAN AND VALLEY OF CHRISTMAS CREEK FROM LAMINGTON PLATEAU.

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near Warwick, in 1827, when he found the Darling Downs. In a direct line the Gap is about twenty-five miles from Warwick, thirty from Toowoomba, and twenty-eight from the National Park. Mount Mitchell is 3,750 feet.

Away north on the head of Woollaman Creek rises the lonely Mount Flinders (2,250 feet), the "High Peak" of Flinders, and "Boorompa" of the aborigines, with its two cone-pointed satellites ("Muntannbin" and "Teenyenpa"), distant about thirty-six miles from the Park.

On the head of Knapp's Creek, which runs into the Logan, is Knapp's Peak, and away out on Warrill Creek is Mount Edwards. The view also includes all the Main Range from the McPherson Range away to Toowoomba, the Little Liverpool Range, the D'Aguilar Range, and a whole wilderness of hills and small ranges over that vast area extending north and west for a hundred miles.

North, about twenty-four miles from the Park, is Tambourine Mountain, the "Wanggalbooin" of the blacks (1,900 feet), and four miles beyond, north-east, is the Wonga-wallen Mountain; while a small hill, visible near the mouth of the Albert, was named Mount Stapylton, in honour of the first surveyor on the Logan, killed by the blacks near Mount Lindesay in 1842.

In the valley of Christmas Creek, when approaching the entrance to the gorge, there is on the right hand a mountain, about 2,500 feet, known as "Neglected Mountain," the "Bimbalmooroom" of the blacks. It is not difficult to ascend, and there are splendid views from the summit. The singular name came from an early squatter who told his stockmen that when

he was looking for lost cattle he "always neglected that mountain"! And the long-missing cattle were actually found on the top. Wild and romantic is the long glen of Christmas Creek. The splendid stream is bordered by dense scrub which extends up the face of the mountains on both sides to the feet of tremendous precipices.



BASALT BASIN FALLS, LOWER MORAN'S CREEK.



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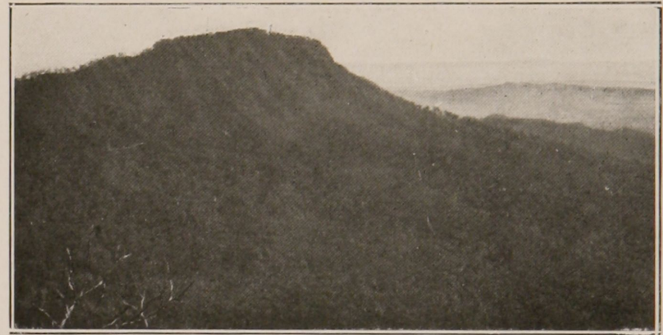
On the left-hand side a great cliff-faced mountain, known as "Buchanan's Fort," from an old local resident, towers menacingly overhead. It was known to the blacks as "Bathang-garie." On passing that you see in front two mountains on the head of Widgee and Christmas Creeks, Widgee Mountain being 3,500 feet and the other about the same. They were known to the blacks as "Goondooraboonbay" and "Mamoonba," while the lofty mountain beyond them was "Tooragoon."

The scenery in the upper glen of Christmas Creek is magnificent. The glens of both branches of the Albert, with their great slopes rising to 3,000 feet, display a wealth of glorious vegetation from base to apex, the stream of perfect water becoming more and more rapid until you arrive among the waterfalls and cascades and cataracts, behind and beyond each other, in foam, or spray, or solid column, a beautiful procession of tumultuous waters following each other down into the valley and thence onward to the sea—

"The sunbeam rays still arch
The torrent with the many hues of Heaven,
And roll the sheeted silver's waving column
O'er the crag's headlong perpendicular;
And flings its lines of foaming light along,
And to and fro, like the pale courser's tail,
The giant steed to be bestrode by Death
As told in the Apocalypse."

At the south-west end of National Park is a considerable creek called Running Creek, with two branches coming out of tremendous ravines, with wild, romantic, fascinating scenery, beautiful vegetation, and falls of all heights up to 600 feet. One descends vertically about 250 feet into a spacious amphi-

theatre with a great deep rockpool over 100 feet in diameter, the surface rippled into waves by the rush of air created by the falling column of water. In flood-time it must be a wonderful scene. The fall strikes the pool with a deep concussion which reverberates from an adjoining cave like muffled thunder. On each side the great mountains rise above you with their throne of rocks, and their robe of clouds, and their diadems of sombre



MOUNT BUCHANAN FROM LAMINGTON PLATEAU.

and majestic pines. Dark basalt layers in the stone walls tell where once the slumbering Earthquake lay pillowed on fire, or the red sea of lava welled from the mighty earth-fissures of the Cainozoic Age and covered the Mesozoic rocks.

Three vast ages are represented in the enormous structures of that National Park. The two great Coal Measures of the Mesozoic Period lie there on old Paleozoic rocks, and over those carboniferous strata flowed the basalt andesites, the trachyte and rhyolite basalts, and pitchstone of the more recent Cainozoic Age.

What appalling convulsions of Nature, in her birthpangs, do those tremendous changes represent!



THE NATIONAL PARK OF QUEENSLAND.

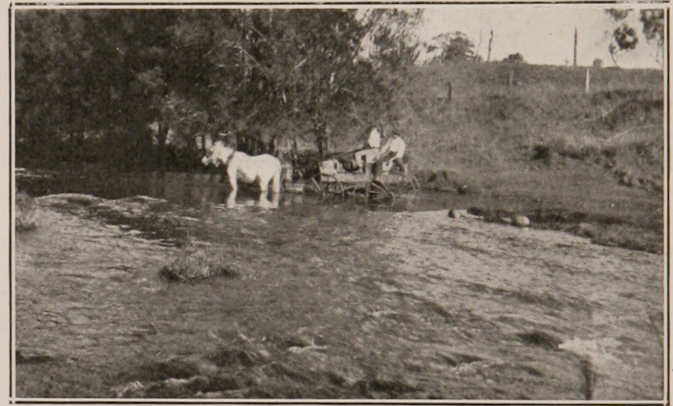
Coal-seams have been found on the Logan and Albert valleys, including seams up to seven feet, and both bituminous and cannel coals are represented, the Ipswich bituminous and the cannel of Walloon and the Darling Downs. Probably coal-seams underlie parts of the McPherson Range. Black, blue, and brown shales, clays, grey and white sandstones, fireclay, quartz pebbles, solid quartz and bands of coal were cut in one 350-foot bore near Buccan, on the Logan. Coal-seams twelve feet and fifteen feet have been found outcropping on the head of Palen Creek, near the foot of the slopes of Mount Lindesay. Coal-seams are also found on Christmas Creek, close to the basalt hills dividing it from the Albert.

Though so largely consisting of basalt, and rhyolite lava and trachytic rocks, the soil on top of the McPherson Range is not the red basaltic soil of Boonah or the Rosewood or the Isis and Woongarra scrubs. It is an exceptionally rich, dark-brown soil formed by countless ages of decaying vegetation, trees and ferns and shrubs dying and decomposing into mould. It must be abnormally rich soil to carry such an amazing wealth of vegetation. Volcanic rocks appear to predominate everywhere, and there is probably a decomposed lava soil under the surface brown vegetable mould.

The whole Range from 2,000 feet to 3,600 feet is an ideal region for growing fruits, except those sensitive to frost. All the fruits of the temperate climes would grow to perfection in those sheltered ravines. In the cleared selection on the head of Stockyard Creek, at 3,000 feet, Rhodes and prairie grass grow luxuriantly, and all the vegetables planted were unusually fine specimens.

The Birds and Animal Life.

As no aboriginals have hunted on the National Park for thirty or forty years, it has been a sanctuary of the birds for that time, but the numbers of some species have been kept down by natural enemies, such as the dingo, scrub rat, native cat, and the carpet snake. It is too early to say how many of the 600 birds of Queensland are found in our great new National Park, but probably a fourth.



A CHRISTMAS CREEK CROSSING, LAMINGTON.

Most interesting is the famous lyre-bird (*Menura Alberti*), the most amazing bird-mimic in the world. There are two other varieties (*M. paradisea*, of New South Wales, and *M. Victoria*, of Victoria), both with finer lyre-tails than *Alberti*, the only one found in Queensland. The hen lays one egg, purple-gray with spots and blotches of purple-brown, in a hassock-shaped nest, with a hole in the side, between the flanges of a tree or on the edge of a cliff. Only the male bird possesses the lyre-tail, and he does most of the mimicking.



THE NATIONAL PARK OF QUEENSLAND.

He can imitate not only any of the birds, but the howl of a dingo, the chop of an axe, the sound of a crosscut saw, the crack of a whip, and even the creaking groans of a falling tree drawing from the stump. And these imitations are all so perfect as to deceive any ordinary listener. Usually a very shy bird, very restless in his movements, he can run with great rapidity. His own natural note is a long, soft, musical whistle sounding "coo-wee-oo," rather mournful in tone. He resorts to the densest parts of the scrub. The Logan blacks called him "Calboon" and "Calboonya," and on the Richmond slope he was "Colwin." The lyre-birds stand in a species by themselves, not related to any others. Gould regarded him as a gigantic wren, owing to the erect tail, the running powers, bristles at the base of the bill, dome-shaped nest, and restless habits. It is surprising how the hen manages to save her solitary egg, or the one chick, from so many enemies.

Very numerous are the coachwhip bird and the cat bird (one of Queensland's ten bower-builders). The long whistles and whip-like cracks of the one, and the catlike and baby-like wail of the other, are fairly continuous in the evenings and mornings along the margin of the streams in the ravines. The coachwhip bird lays, in a small bush, two green-white eggs dotted with black and grey spots; the cat bird laying two cream-coloured eggs in a nest ten to twenty feet from the ground.

Among the beautiful birds are the elegant "Pitta" (black satin bower-bird), the gorgeous black and gold regent bower-bird, and the exquisitely coloured rifle-bird (*Ptiloris paradisea*) with its splendid plumage of velvety black and rifle green, like that of *P. Victoria*, found north of Cardwell, and *P. Alberti*, found only in the north end of the Cape York Peninsula.

Among the sweet-voiced singers are the wrens, warblers, robins, finches, and thrushes, which are all well represented, and a fair number of Queensland's thirty-five honey-eaters. Numerous, too, are the bell-birds, whose metallic note suggested to the aboriginals the name of "Dingbing."

The scrub turkeys (*Talegalla Lathamii*) display their nests in all parts of the Park, and the wonga calls from the tree-tops at all hours of the day. There, too, are the white-headed and pheasant-tailed pigeons, which lay one white egg, sometimes two, in the top of the tree-ferns at 4,000 feet on the McPherson Range, and 5,000 feet on Bellenden-Ker. The slate-coloured fruit pigeons with the brown crest are also in great numbers, greater by reason of their old fruit-growing scrubs of the Tweed Valley and Logan and Albert having vanished. In windy weather, when coming up from the flat country below, flocks of these pigeons will travel along in the shelter of the ravines close to the bottom, and then shoot up with a rush from the depths when they reach the falls where the creeks descend from the precipices. The white cockatoos are numerous and the black are frequent visitors.

The night curlew, or stone plover, visits only the small patches of forest on the outer ends of the spurs which end in precipices, on the Queensland side only, there being no forest on the New South Wales side on top of the range. The night birds include "Podargus," the mopoke (*Ninox lurida*), two of the smaller nightjars, at least one of the true owls, and three of our six hawk-owls, to which the mopoke belongs.

There, too, are our familiar friends the magpie lark and the butcher bird, also great numbers of the noisy black and



THE NATIONAL PARK OF QUEENSLAND.

white "currawacs" (*Strepera graculina*) and the ubiquitous crow, the recognised enemy of all small birds. King and blue-mountain parrots and lorries are in great numbers. The thick-heads, shrikes, flycatchers, figbirds, kingfishers, swifts, wood swallows, and tree creepers are all represented.

The great white-headed fish eagle and the black eagle (*Aquila audax*) soar aloft in the blue occasionally, but a thick scrub is no place for them, so they are merely on a tour of inspection. At least one of the falcons and three hawks have been sighted, but a year or two must pass before the fauna, avifauna, or flora of that region are classified.

The dingo is there, the true yellow bushy-tail dingo with the pointed ears; also the grey, black, and ringtail 'possums, the scrub iguana, and the flying squirrel; also the long and short nosed bandicoots and large and small scrub rats. At least two varieties of the pademelon and the scrub wallaby are common, and the agile dark rock wallaby, with the tufted tail, frequents the caves and crevices and ledges of the cliffs on both sides of the ranges, and ever remains "the lonely dweller of the rocks."

None of the kangaroo or wallaroo family are found on the Park area, there not being open spaces for the larger marsupials. And, of course, there are no aquatic birds, and no jabiroo, native companion, no herons, plovers, or other birds such as are found in swamps, lagoons, or open country.

Snakes appear to be in considerable variety, including the carpet snake, of which there are probably very large specimens, possibly equal to the record so far of twenty-two feet, shot in a swamp near Cooktown by L. F. Sachs back in the seventies. The death adder ("Manoolcoong") is found at the foot of the

McPherson Range and on the lower slopes of the foothills, so that probably he too is an inhabitant of the summit, as he appears to be equally at home in the heat of the tropics or the frost and snow of New England.

It is a splendid field for the entomologist, as insect life is remarkably abundant. The Ornithoptera, or "bird-winged" butterflies, include the beautiful *O. richmondiana*, first found on the Richmond River, and many other handsome butterflies and moths. The Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Neuroptera, and Orthoptera are all numerous. There are 10,000 varieties of beetles in Australia, and 6,000 of these are in Queensland. Already have rare beetles and strange new insects been discovered recently on the National Park by H. Tryon, the Government Entomologist, and there must be many more to discover.

At the base of the Range, on the Queensland side, in the streams flowing into the Albert and Logan, there is good fishing among large eels, catfish, and Murray cod.

The Climate.

It will be pure foolishness for Queenslanders to go south merely for a change of climate to any of the Southern States, when our National Park is properly open for tourists. The Park combines advantages not possessed by any mountain resorts in the South. It looks down from a height of 2,800 to 4,100 feet on the Pacific Ocean, which is only twenty-five miles away at Mount Merino, and twenty-four miles at Point Lookout—so it commands that particularly salubrious climate where the mountain air is tempered by the sea-breeze.



LAMINGTON BLUFF, NEAR BUCHANAN'S.

THE NATIONAL PARK OF QUEENSLAND.



NEST OF THE BOWER BIRD.

All over the summit of the McPherson Range the nights are cool, even decidedly cold, in the summer months, and in the daytime in December and January the thermometer is

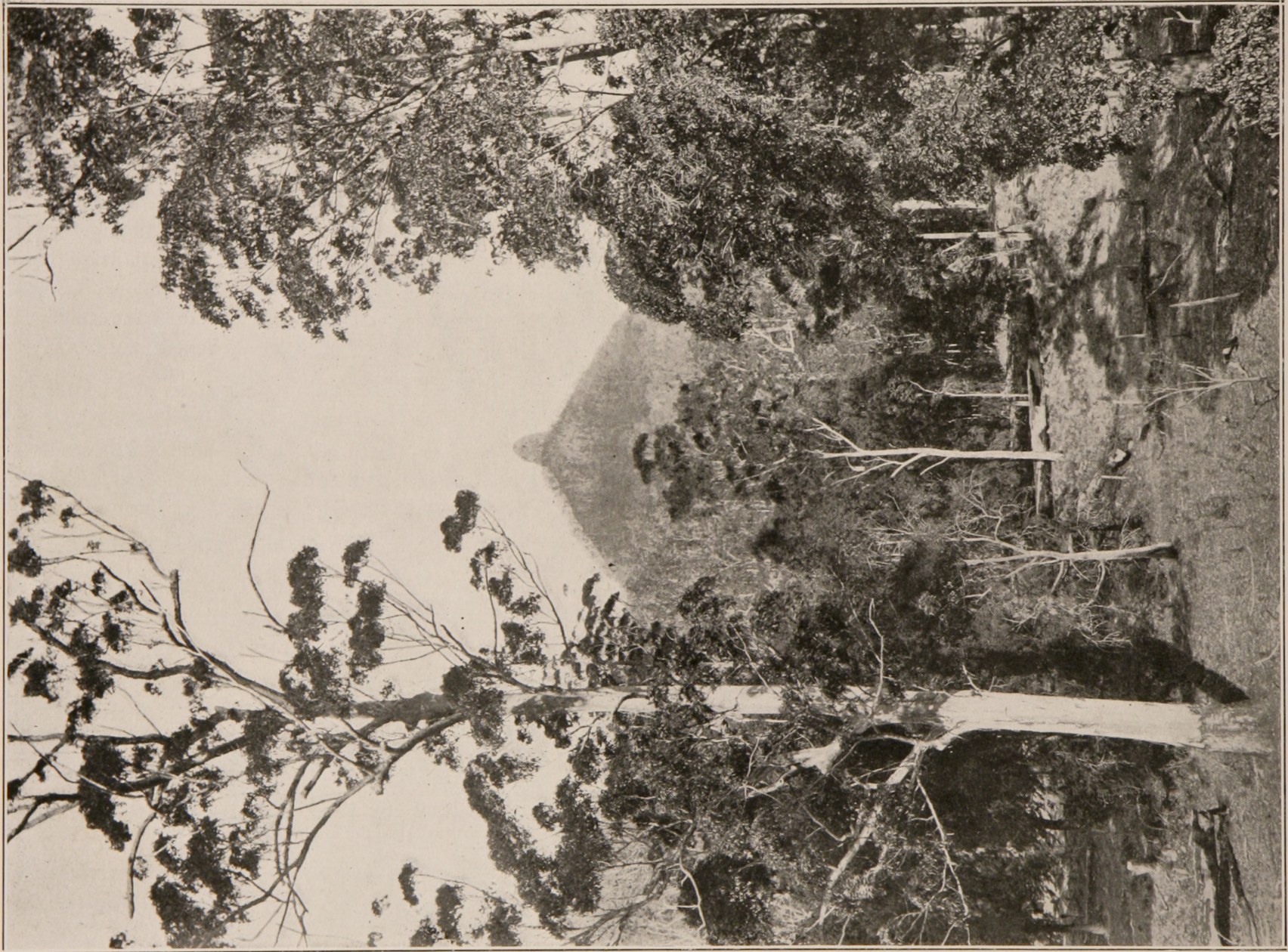
frequently from 55 degrees to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. It is indeed a bracing and exhilarating atmosphere on those lofty mountain tops—a climate that gives to women and girls the rosy cheeks common in Tasmania and New Zealand.

Even a week on that National Park, either on the great open rock balconies on each side, or rambling through the ever cool and shaded pathways of that great umbrageous wilderness of trees and shrubs, would send the tired city man or woman back with a brighter eye, and a lighter step, and renewed vigour. Those who can stay longer would benefit accordingly.

The scenes from that Park, through summer and winter, in the mornings and the evenings, in the calm weather and in storms, is an ever-changing, magnificent natural kaleidoscope—a perpetual feast of beautiful scenes “where no crude surfeit reigns.” The sunsets and sunrises, seen from west and east, are frequently magnificent and sublime beyond all powers of description.

The highest points on the Blue Mountains are 3,336 feet at Katoomba, and 3,503 feet at Newnes Junction, so that the highest part of the Queensland National Park is 800 feet higher than Katoomba. It will be a resort not only for Queenslanders, but for the people of the Clarence, Richmond, and Tweed, or any New South Wales people visiting the Tweed River.

There are at least two points of access from the Tweed valley, where fairly reasonable ascents could be made after a very moderate expenditure. This would remove the necessity for Tweed people and their visitors coming round by Brisbane or Bethania Junction and Beaudesert.



VIEW OF HUNTER'S LOOKOUT FROM BELOW THE RANGE, UPPER ALBERT RIVER.

THE NATIONAL PARK OF QUEENSLAND.

Once the splendid scenery and the glorious climate are known, the reputation of the National Park as a tourist resort will spread through all Australia.

Means of Access.

This Park was gazetted by the Honourable J. M. Hunter, Minister for Lands, on the 31st July, 1915.

What was known as the Lamington Plateau was gazetted in 1900, but that was merely a limited area lying between Running Creek and Christmas Creek, including Waterfall Creek, a branch of Christmas Creek, with one waterfall 540 feet in height. Running Creek is a tributary of the Logan River, and Christmas Creek runs into the same stream.

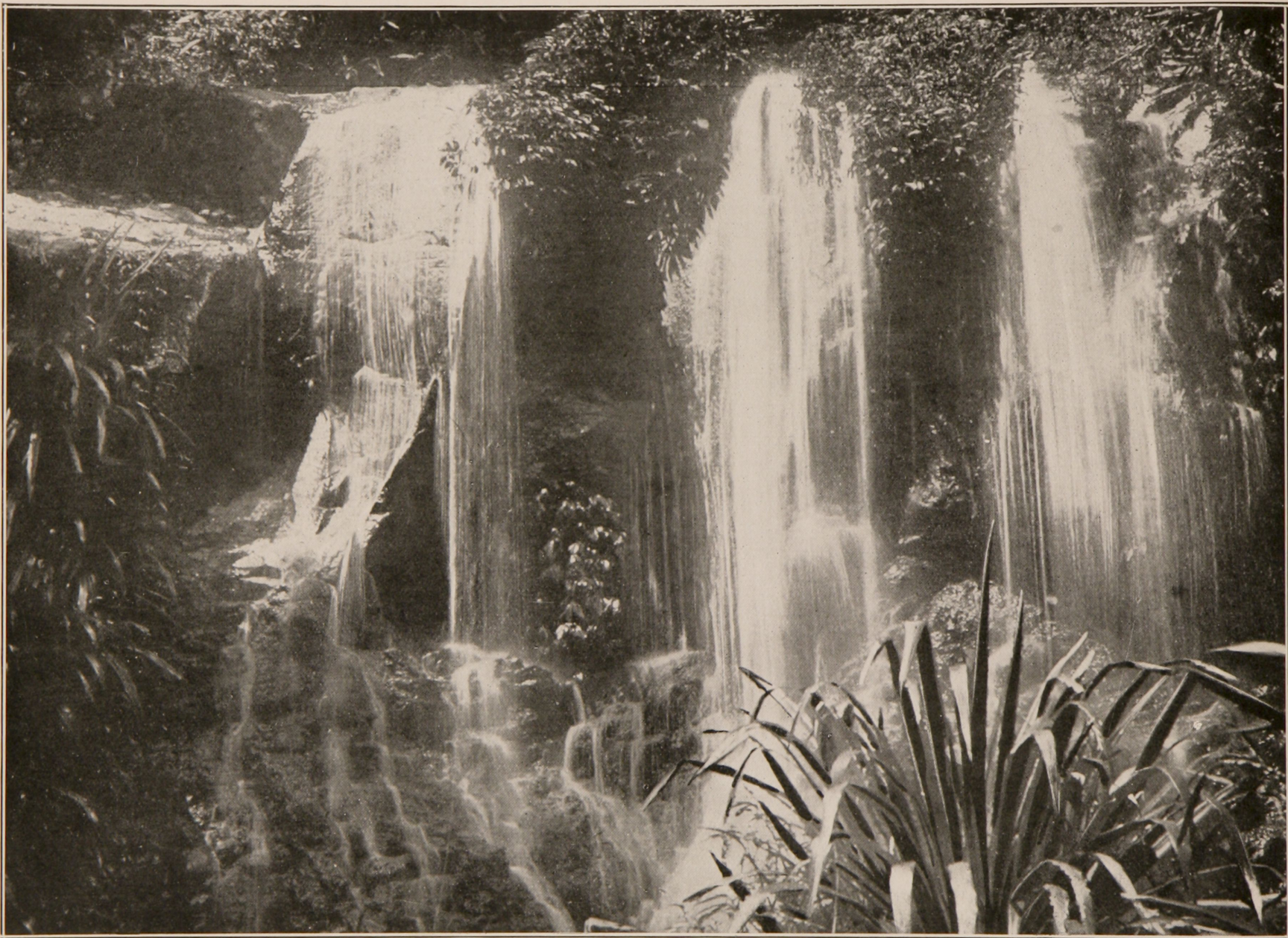
The Lamington Plateau originated in a timber reserve created at the instigation of R. M. Collins, a well-known Logan River squatter, who was an enthusiastic advocate of a National Park being established on the McPherson Range, and to whom is due the credit of originating the movement which ended in the extension of the Lamington Plateau to include the whole area of the present National Park, which extends from and includes all Running Creek to the head of the Coomera and forms the watershed of Christmas and Waterfall Creeks, both branches of the Albert, Moran's, Stockyard, and Canungra Creeks, and the Coomera and Nerang Rivers, all in Queensland.

Practically the whole McPherson Range drains into Queensland, there being no watershed towards the Tweed, as the face of the range on that side is nearly all a line of precipices with only one or two possible ascents. Ascent is also difficult on the Queensland side. The country at the head of Canungra

Creek is so rough and precipitous that the surveyors mark it on the map as "inaccessible," and the country on the head of the Coomera is no better. By far the easiest and most gradual ascent is a long spur running up the left side of Stockyard Creek, a tributary of the Albert. From Beaudesert a good road runs out past Kerry at ten miles to the foot of the spur eight miles further, across good, solid, dry country in any ordinary season.

The track up the Stockyard Creek spur was made by the Reilly brothers, a number of young fellows who selected seven selections on top of the range, and are in the unique position of being the sole inhabitants of the whole summit, as all other selections were withdrawn after they had selected. They hold the selection immediately where the track reaches the summit, a spot commanding magnificent views and an ideal spot for an accommodation house, either to be erected by the Government or private enterprise.

The surveyor has left the finest position as Crown land. The Reillys have cleared a considerable area of dense scrub and have it under grass, so there is at the date of this being written a good paddock for the horses of visitors and plenty of excellent water. Three miles further, through dense scrub, is another Reilly-cleared selection, on Moran's Creek, also under grass, the clearing being on both sides of the creek and running down to the verge of Moran's Falls. These Reilly clearings allow visitors a fine view of some splendid scenery, and without them there would be nothing visible but solid jungle from where you land on the top of the Range until you reach the southern edge looking down on the Tweed valley, a distance of nine miles.



THE NATIONAL PARK OF QUEENSLAND.

A track cut by the Reillys runs right across the Range from side to side, to the edges of great precipices that command magnificent views of the Tweed valley, Mount Warning, and the ocean and Cape Byron beyond. From where that track arrives at the Tweed border another runs along the top of the Range for the full length of the Park to Point Lookout, and thence across the Range to the cliffs looking down on Christmas Creek, curving thence to the razorback spur overlooking Running Creek, down on to the saddle connecting the McPherson Range with Neglected Mountain, and thence from that saddle down a valley and a small creek that runs into Christmas Creek, where it emerges from the great ravine forming the valley of that creek between the giant cliffs of the Lamington Plateau on one side and Mount Buchanan on the other. The junction is at the farm of Richard Walsh, one of the pioneer settlers.

Three miles up Christmas Creek, a fine, permanent stream of excellent water, with grand jungle-clad mountains on both sides, is the residence of Buchanan, the only settler, at the junction of Waterfall Creek, which comes off the old Lamington Plateau down "Lamington Glen," at the back of his house, part of the descent being a very beautiful cascade 540 feet in height.

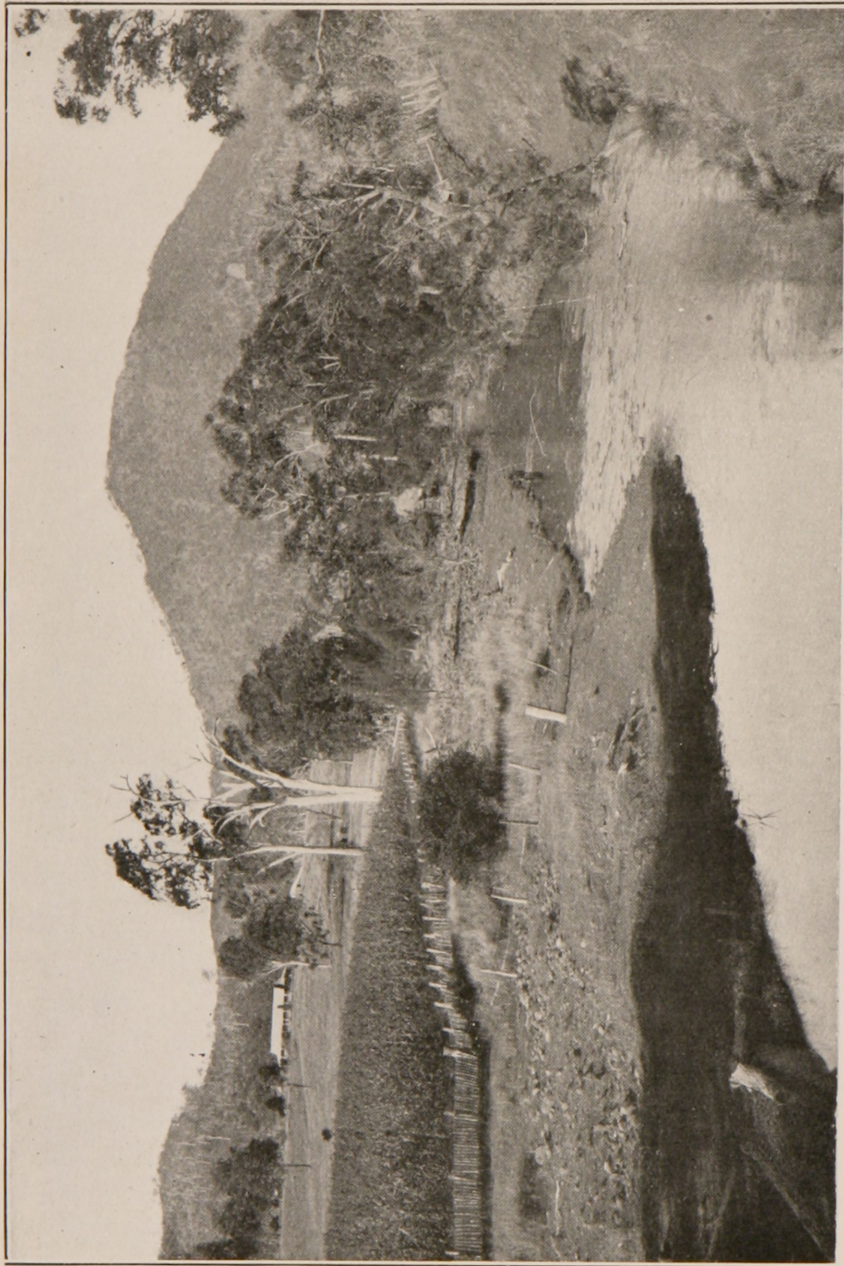
A couple of miles above Buchanan's, Christmas Creek emerges from a vast ravine with jungle-clad mountains rising 3,000 feet on each side. From Walsh's to Buchanan's is a very fair road made by Buchanan, a good horse-track, and also available for vehicles or motor-cars unless the creeks were flooded. From Walsh's down to Lamington is an excellent vehicle road for seven miles, along the valley of Christmas

Creek, crossing that creek a dozen times, with very picturesque scenery on both sides.

At Lamington there is a comfortable hotel, a sawmill, and the terminal railway station of a branch line which runs out from Beaudesert a distance of twenty-two miles. To visit Christmas Creek and all that end of Lamington Park, the tourist would go out on this branch line and then arrange at the Lamington Hotel for horses or vehicles. Unfortunately there is so far no reasonable point of ascent from Christmas Creek to the old Lamington Plateau, which is now only a section of the National Park, although there have been a number of ascents made near the residence of R. Walsh and behind Buchanan's house.

The ascent from the saddle at the head of the ravine which runs up from R. Walsh's to where it looks down on Running Creek is a razorback, the top of which is 3,100 feet, a steep and narrow ascent that would require a lot of work to make it quite safe for saddle or pack horses. A much better ascent is available on a spur coming down into the west side of Running Creek, but that is a question of a future track to be located.

At the opposite end of the Park is Canungra Creek, but the country there and on the head of the Coomera is particularly steep and rough, and has other disadvantages, apart from being at the least attractive portion of the Park. However, a scheme for road construction from Canungra through Beechmount to the northern boundary of the Park has been outlined. The locality known as Stockyard Creek, which runs into the Albert about seven miles above Kerry, offers not only the easiest known ascent of the Range, but is in the centre of the Park,



THE NATIONAL PARK OF QUEENSLAND.

and would command easy access to all the most splendid scenery on both sides of the Range when tracks are cut from the main summit track at right angles out to all the points of vantage on both branches of the Albert River and Widgee and Christmas Creeks. The summit at Stockyard Creek, from there on to the Tweed border, when clearings are made, would command all the scenery in that direction.

The falls of Stockyard Creek are on one of the lowest points of the Range, and Reilly's track reaches the summit within 300 yards of the falls. Reilly's track, even in its primitive condition, is an easy track for saddle or pack horses, and any ordinary horse can carry a rider up or down, and any healthy man or woman could walk up or down. To go by that, at present the only practicable ascent, the tourist would go by rail from Brisbane to Beaudesert. From there a coach runs to Kerry, where there is a good hotel on the Albert River, ten miles out over a good road. At Kerry he can arrange for a horse or vehicle to take him nine miles up the Albert, to the foot of the ascending spur up Stockyard Creek. He would either require to take horses all the way from Kerry, or arrange beforehand to have horses meet him at the foot of the ascent. From the foot of the Range to the top is about two miles, and there he arrives at Reilly's first house. Three miles beyond is the Reillys' main dwelling, and on three other selections are comfortable huts suitable for any visitors who care to stay there and take their own provisions and camp requisites. There is plenty of excellent water and unlimited firewood at all those huts, and plenty of milk and butter is obtainable from the homestead of the Reillys—young men who have done a lot of clearing, and whose uniform courtesy to visitors is gratefully remembered by them all.

The water in Moran's Creek is pure, cold, spring water of a quality not found down on the flat country. The soil over all the McPherson Range is unusually rich, capable of growing anything that would suit the climate, and all the vegetables planted by the Reillys have grown to great perfection. From these selections could come all the supplies of beef, mutton, milk, butter, and vegetables required by accommodation houses or camping-out tourists. It is ideal fruit country and climate for peaches, apples, cherries, nectarines, oranges, lemons, English gooseberries, and currants. There are sharp frosts in winter, but the general climate all the year round is perfect, and there is no better site for a health restoring and recruiting sanatorium in Australia. When once known and understood it will be a favourite resort of hundreds of people from all the States, and, so far as scenery is concerned, in variety and splendour it will be the show-park of Australia.

The most enthusiastic advocates for the establishment of Lamington National Park were R. M. Collins, of Tamrookum, one of the early settlers on the Logan, and Romeo Lahey, of Canungra Creek. Collins was first in the field as an advocate, and did not spare either time or expense, and Romeo Lahey threw in all the energy and enthusiasm of a highly intelligent, patriotic young Queenslander.

To the Reilly brothers, sole inhabitants of the Park, we are indebted for the clearings which enable the visitor to see any scenery after leaving the edge of the Summit, for paddocks for visitors' horses, for a residence and provisions for tourists, for much quite unselfish work, useless to them but valuable for visitors, and for uniform courtesy and assistance as guides and entertainers.





ROCKY BLUFF, ROBERTS PLATEAU.

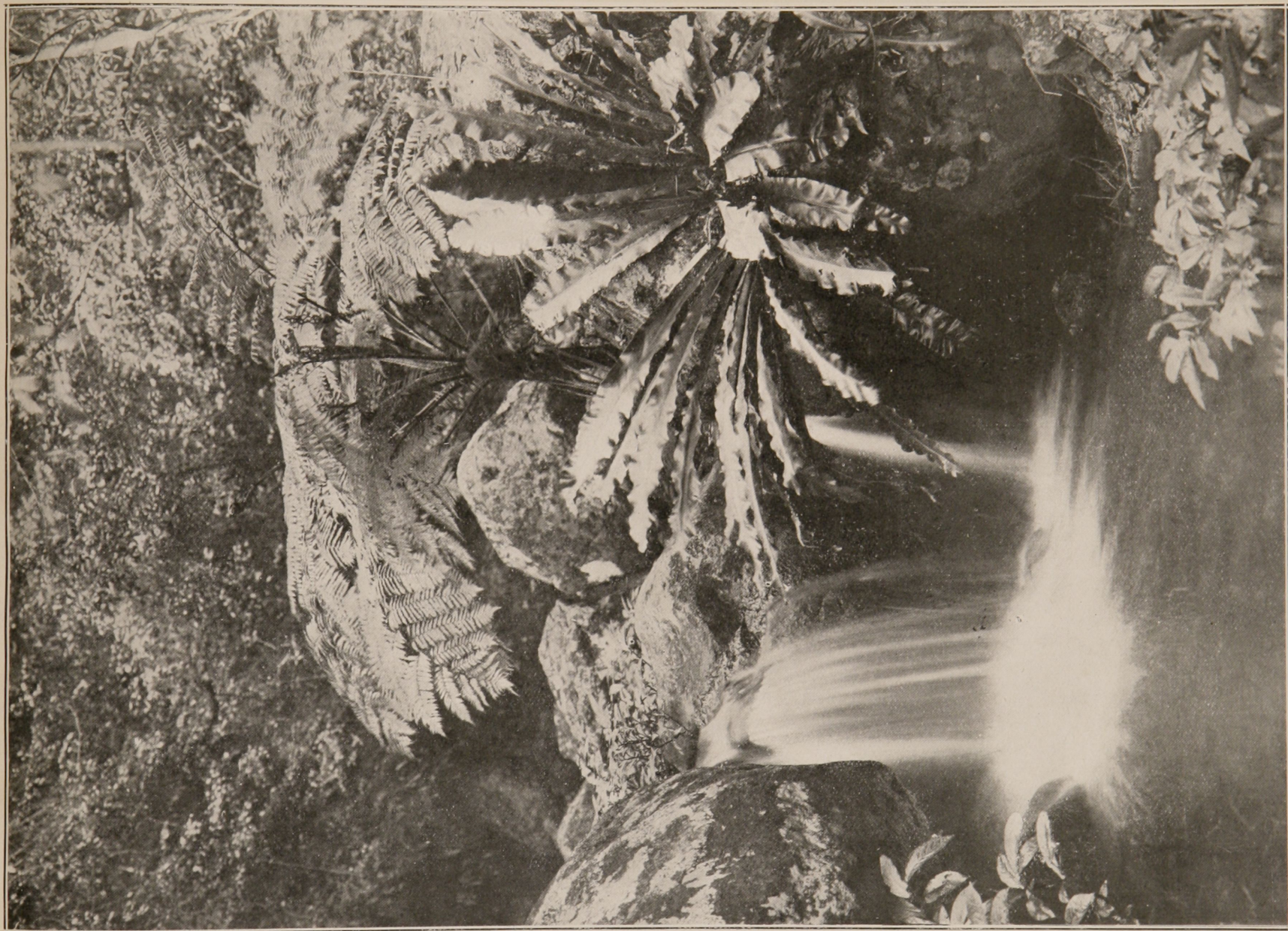




A SCENE ON CHRISTMAS CREEK, NEAR LAMINGTON.



MORAN'S FALLS, ROBERTS PLATEAU.



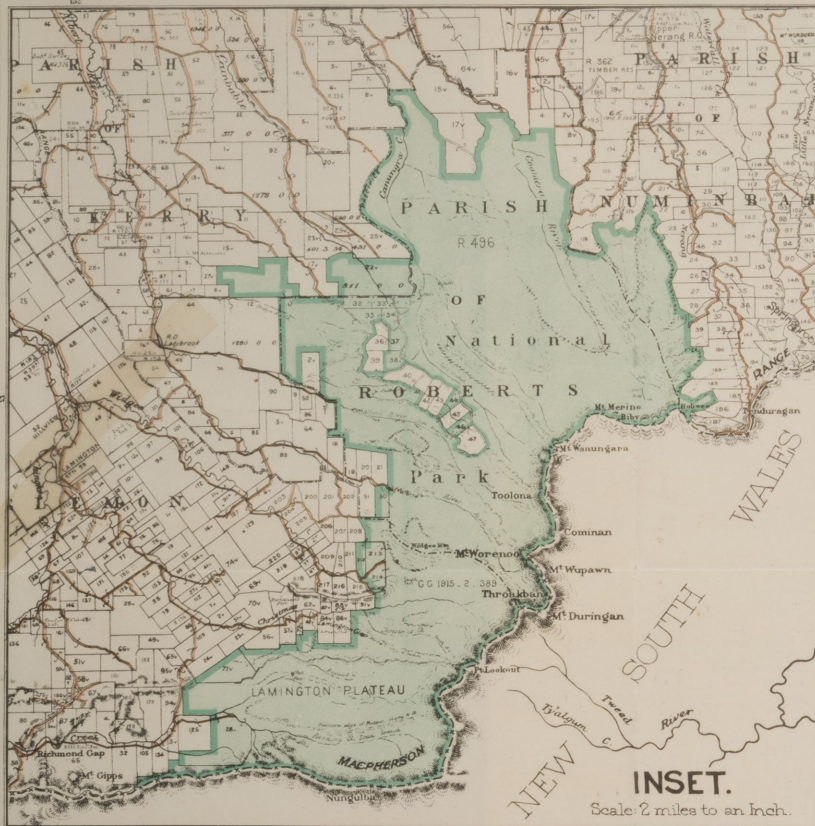
MORAN'S CREEK, BELOW MORAN'S FALLS.



18


MAP Showing Area overlooked by NATIONAL PARK

Scale; 6 Miles to an Inch.



REFERENCE

Railway Lines shown thus
Telegraph Lines " "
do Stations " "
Main Roads " "
Boonah " "
Brisbane Observatory (Thousand Feet)
Latitude 27° 27' 59" S
Longitude 153° 01' 46" E
Brisbane Signal (594 ft. above Sea Level)
Latitude 27° 28' 00" S
Longitude 153° 01' 50" E



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